Gouvernement du Québec

O.C. 368-2026, 19 March 2026

Regulation to amend the Regulation respecting the environmental impact assessment and review of certain projects and other provisions

WHEREAS, under section 31.1 of the Environment Quality Act (chapter Q-2), no person may undertake any construction, work, activity or operation, or carry out work according to a project, in the cases provided for by regulation of the Government without following the environmental impact assessment and review procedure provided for in subdivision 4 of Division II of Chapter IV of Title I of the Act and obtaining an authorization from the Government;

WHEREAS, under subparagraph 3 of the first paragraph of section 31.2 of the Environment Quality Act, replaced by section 94 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment (2025, chapter 12), the proponent of a project referred to in section 31.1 or 31.1.1 of the Environment Quality Act must file a notice of intention with the Minister of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks that includes any other document or information prescribed by government regulation;

WHEREAS, under the first paragraph of section 31.3 of the Environment Quality Act, replaced by section 94 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment, within the time determined by government regulation, the Minister must request that the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement announce the beginning of the environmental assessment and organize an information period on the notice of intention provided for in the first paragraph of section 31.2 of the Environment Quality Act in order to gather the public's concerns that could become issues to assess as well as the public's observations on the intended nature, scope and extent of the environmental impact assessment statement;

WHEREAS, under the first paragraph of section 31.3.1 of the Environment Quality Act, replaced by section 94 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment, within the time determined by government regulation, the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement must send the Minister an account of the information period that includes, in particular, a summary of the observations and concerns raised by the public and identifies those whose relevance warrants that they be taken into account in the environmental impact assessment statement;

WHEREAS, under the first paragraph of section 31.3.2 of the Environment Quality Act, replaced by section 94 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment, within the time determined by government regulation, the Minister must send the project proponent a directive determining the nature, scope and extent of the environmental impact assessment statement the proponent must prepare and the time limit for sending the statement to the Minister;

WHEREAS, under the third paragraph of section 31.3.4 of the Environment Quality Act, replaced by section 94 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment, within the time determined by government regulation following the publication of the impact assessment statement and the project proponent's attestation in the environmental assessment register, the Minister must request that the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement organize an information period on the project, as it is presented in the impact statement, to allow the public to make comments, raise concerns and ask questions, while also giving the public the opportunity to obtain answers from the project proponent;

WHEREAS, under the first paragraph of section 31.3.4.1 of the Environment Quality Act, replaced by section 94 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment, within the time determined by government regulation, the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement must send the Minister an account of the information period that includes, in particular, a summary of the observations and concerns raised by the public as well as additional information provided by the project proponent in response to those observations and concerns, if applicable;

WHEREAS, under the first paragraph of section 31.3.5 of the Environment Quality Act, amended by section 95 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment, a person or a group of persons may, during the information period provided for in the third paragraph of section 31.3.4 of the Environment Quality Act, apply to the Minister, in the manner and form prescribed by government regulation, for a public consultation or mediation to be held on the project;

WHEREAS, under the second paragraph of section 31.3.5 of the Environment Quality Act, amended by section 95 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment, following analysis of the applications received and within the time fixed by government regulation, the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement must send the Minister its recommendation regarding the relevance of one of the mandates

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referred to in the third paragraph being conferred on the Bureau and, where applicable, regarding the type of mandate.

WHEREAS, under subparagraph 7 of the first paragraph of section 31.4.1 of the Environment Quality Act, the Minister may terminate the procedure provided for in subdivision 4 of Division II of Chapter IV of Title I of the Act or require the project proponent, on the conditions and within the time the Minister determines, to return to a prior stage in the procedure in the other cases provided for by government regulation;

WHEREAS, under the fifth paragraph of section 31.5.1 of the Act, any financial contribution required as compensation under the first, second or third paragraph of section 31.5.1 of the Act may, on request and within the time and on the conditions determined by government regulation, be reimbursed, in whole or in part, if the actual adverse effects are less than the ones covered by the contribution required, and the request for reimbursement must be accompanied by the information determined by government regulation;

WHEREAS, under the fourth paragraph of section 31.7 of the Act, if the changes or amendments referred to in the first or second paragraph of section 31.7 of the Act are not subject to the environmental impact assessment and review procedure, the authorization holder must provide the documents and information determined by government regulation that are required to assess the acceptability of the amendment application;

WHEREAS, under the first paragraph of section 31.7.0.1 of the Act, the holder of an authorization must obtain from the Government an amendment of the authorization if the holder wishes to modify the period of validity of the authorization and must, in support of the application, provide the documents and information determined by government regulation that are required to assess the acceptability of the amendment application;

WHEREAS, under the first paragraph of section 31.7.5 of the Environment Quality Act, an authorization issued under subdivision 4 of Division II of Chapter IV of Title I of the Environment Quality Act is transferable, in whole or in part; to that end, the authorization holder must first send the Minister a notice of transfer containing the information and documents prescribed by government regulation;

WHEREAS, under subparagraphs *a*, *a*.1, *b*, *b*.1, *c*, *c*.1, *d*, *e* and *f* of the first paragraph of section 31.9 of the Environment Quality Act, amended by section 107 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment, the Government may make regulations to:

— determine the classes of construction, works, plans, programs, operations, works or activities to which section 31.1 of the Environment Quality Act applies;

— determine any other information that the notice of intention referred to in section 31.2 must contain;

— determine the parameters of an environmental impact assessment statement with regard, namely, to the impact of a project on nature, on the biophysical milieu, the underwater milieu, human communities, the balance of ecosystems, archaeological sites, heritage property and any other property;

— determine the parameters of an environmental impact assessment statement on the greenhouse gas emissions attributable to a project and any expected climate change risks to and impacts on the project and the milieu in which it will be carried out;

— prescribe the terms governing the information and public consultation relating to any authorization application for some or all classes of projects referred to in section 22, 31.1 or 31.1.1 of the Act, including the publication by the project proponent of notices in newspapers, the form and content of such notices and the time within which persons and groups may submit observations and apply for a public consultation under section 31.3.5 of the Act, or mediation, the duration of an information period, and the time limit for the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement to ensure the conduct of such a period or hold a public hearing, targeted consultation or mediation and make a report;

— prescribe, in addition to the time limits mentioned in subparagraph c of the first paragraph of section 31.9 of the Act, any other time limit applicable to the environmental impact assessment and review procedure for one or more classes of projects subject to that procedure, in particular, the time limits within which the decisions of the Minister or the Government made under subdivision 4 of Division II of Chapter IV of Title I of the Act must be rendered;

— prescribe how public information periods, public hearings, targeted consultations and mediation held by the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement are to be announced and specify the persons to whom hearing, consultation or mediation reports and impact assessment statements are to be sent;

— define types of impact assessment statements and the terms and conditions of the presentation of impact assessment statements;

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—determine the terms governing the sending of the documents and information required under subdivision 4 of Division II of Chapter IV of Title I of the Act to the Minister;

WHEREAS, under paragraph 1 of section 46.15 of the Act, the Government may, by regulation, determine the information or documents a person who files an application for registration in the cap-and-trade system, acquires an emission allowance or carries out any other transaction or operation in the system must provide to the Minister;

WHEREAS, under subparagraph 7 of the first paragraph of section 118.5.0.1 of the Act, the Minister must keep a register of projects that are subject to the environmental impact assessment and review procedure provided for in subdivision 4 of Division II of Chapter IV of Title I of the Act in which any other document prescribed by government regulation is made available to the public;

WHEREAS, under section 124.1 of the Act, no provision of a regulation, the coming into force of which is later than 9 November 1978, likely to affect the immovables comprised in a reserved area or in an agricultural zone established in accordance with the Act respecting the preservation of agricultural land and agricultural activities (chapter P-41.1) applies to that area or zone unless the regulation provides it expressly;

WHEREAS, in accordance with sections 10 and 11 of the Regulations Act (chapter R-18.1), a draft Regulation to amend the Regulation respecting the environmental impact assessment and review of certain projects and other provisions was published in Part 2 of the *Gazette officielle du Québec* of 10 December 2025, with a notice that it could be made by the Government on the expiry of 45 days following that publication;

WHEREAS it is expedient to make the Regulation with amendments;

IT IS ORDERED, therefore, on the recommendation of the Acting Minister of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks:

THAT the Regulation to amend the Regulation respecting the environmental impact assessment and review of certain projects and other provisions, attached to this Order in Council, be made.

DAVID BAHAN
Clerk of the Conseil exécutif

Regulation to amend the Regulation respecting the environmental impact assessment and review of certain projects and other provisions

Environment Quality Act
(chapter Q-2, s. 31.1, s. 31.2, 1st par., subpar. 3, s. 31.3, 1st par., s. 31.3.1, 1st par., s. 31.3.2, 1st par., s. 31.3.4, 3rd par., s. 31.3.4.1, 1st par., s. 31.3.5, 1st and 2nd pars., s. 31.4.1, 1st par., subpar. 7, s. 31.5.1, 5th par., s. 31.7, 4th par., s. 31.7.0.1, 1st par., s. 31.7.5, 1st par., s. 31.9, 1st par., subpars. a, a.1, b, b.1, c, c.1, d, e and f, s. 46.15, par. 1, s. 124.1, s. 118.5.0.1, 1st par., subpar. 7, and s. 124.1; 2025, chapter 12, ss. 94, 95, 96 and 107).

Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment
(2025, chapter 12, s. 178, 2nd par.).

REGULATION RESPECTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW OF CERTAIN PROJECTS

1. The Regulation respecting the environmental impact assessment and review of certain projects (chapter Q-2, r. 23.1) is amended by replacing Divisions I to VII, comprising sections 1 to 30, by the following:

"**DIVISION I**
GENERAL

1. In this Regulation, unless the context indicates otherwise,

"Act" means the Environment Quality Act (chapter Q-2); (*Loi*)

"Bureau" means the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement; (*Bureau*)

"greenhouse gas" means the gases referred to in Schedule A.1 to the Regulation respecting mandatory reporting of certain emissions of contaminants into the atmosphere (chapter Q-2, r. 15); (*gaz à effet de serre*)

"Indian reserve" means a reserve within the meaning of the Indian Act (R.S.C. 1985, c. I-5), an Indian settlement, and the Kanesatake interim land base within the meaning of the Kanesatake Interim Land Base Governance Act (S.C. 2001, c. 8); (*réserve indienne*)

"Minister" means the Minister responsible for the administration of the Environment Quality Act; (*ministre*)

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"public register" means the register of environmental assessments created under section 118.5.0.1 of the Environment Quality Act; (*registre public*)

"valued environmental component" means an element of importance to a group of persons, in particular local communities, including Native communities, the scientific community or government authorities, for its ecological, social, economic, health, heritage or cultural importance. (*composante valorisée de l'environnement*)

For the purposes of this Regulation, the territory corresponding to Category IA-N lands within the meaning of the Act respecting the land regime in the James Bay and New Québec territories (chapter R-13.1) is deemed to be an Indian reserve.

2. This Regulation applies to the whole of Québec, except for the territories referred to in sections 133 and 168 of the Act. It applies to immovables situated in a reserved area or in an agricultural zone established under the Act respecting the preservation of agricultural land and agricultural activities (chapter P-41.1).

3. Any information or document that must be sent to the Minister under the environmental impact assessment and review procedure provided for in subdivision 4 of Division II of Chapter IV of Title I of the Act or required under this Regulation must be submitted electronically using the forms, templates, spreadsheets and other data collection tools that meet the requirements, when available on the website of the Ministère.

DIVISION II
PROJECTS SUBJECT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW PROCEDURE

4. For the purposes of section 31.1 of the Act, the projects subject to the environmental impact assessment and review procedure provided for in subdivision 4 of Division II of Chapter IV of Title I of the Act are those listed in Schedule 1, in the cases provided for in that Schedule.

DIVISION III
CONTENT OF THE NOTICE OF INTENTION

5. The notice of intention that a proponent must file with the Minister for a project subject to the environmental impact assessment and review procedure must contain the information and documents provided for in this Division, in addition to those provided for in subparagraphs 1 and 2 of the first paragraph of section 31.2 of the Act, replaced by section 94 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment (2025, chapter 12).

6. Every notice of intention must contain the following general information and documents:

(1) the information needed to identify the project proponent and the proponent's representative, including the representative's role if applicable;

(2) the Québec business number assigned to the proponent when registered under the Act respecting the legal publicity of enterprises (chapter P-44.1);

(3) where the project proponent has retained the services of professionals or other competent persons to develop all or part of the project, their names and contact information and a brief description of their mandates;

(4) if the project proponent is not a natural person, a copy of the document authorizing the representative to sign and file the notice of intention;

(5) if the project proponent is a municipality, a certified copy of a resolution of the municipal council or a copy of a by-law authorizing the representative to sign and file the notice of intention;

(6) the project proponent's declaration of antecedents, the contents of which are provided for in the first paragraph of section 43, except if the project proponent is a legal person in the public interest.

7. In addition to the presentation of the general nature of the project referred to in subparagraph 1 of the first paragraph of section 31.2 of the Act, replaced by section 94 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment (2025, chapter 12), the notice of intention must include

(1) the rationale for and objectives of the project;

(2) the alternative solutions to the project;

(3) the expected project phases, from planning to closure and, if applicable, post-closure, including a description of the activities that each phase involves;

(4) the maximum expected capacity or scope of the project;

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(5) a summary of the main project implementation variants, among other things with respect to its location and establishment, construction and operating processes and methods, identifying, if applicable, those that have already been rejected;

(6) where applicable, a summary of project-related activities;

(7) the location of the project and project activities, as well as a description of the territory where it will be carried out;

(8) a list of the main anticipated impacts of the project, based on the information available;

(9) a timeline for the implementation of the expected phases of the project from planning to closure;

(10) the activities for informing and consulting the public, including Native communities, that have been completed prior to the filing of the notice of intention and the planning of the project, along with the results of the activities and the manner in which the results have been taken into consideration.

8. For the purposes of paragraph 7 of section 7, the location of the project and project activities, as well as the description of the territory where it will be carried out must include, in particular,

(1) a description of the territory that may be impacted by the project and of the known valued environmental components;

(2) the steps taken, including with Native communities, to determine the location of the project, the activities described in accordance with paragraph 3 of section 7 and the infrastructures, works and buildings connected with those activities;

(3) the legal constraints applicable in the territory described in accordance with paragraph 1, as well as the identification and description of the constraints that influence, limit or prevent land occupation or use and affect the location of the project and project activities, including the land uses resulting from any plan, program or other planning instrument prescribed by law;

(4) if an activity covered by the application is to be carried out in an agricultural zone established under the Act respecting the preservation of agricultural land and agricultural activities (chapter P-41.1) and requires authorization from the Commission de protection du territoire agricole du Québec, mention of that fact;

(5) a georeferenced site plan locating the project within the territory described in accordance with paragraph 1, including

(*a*) a delimitation of all the planned intervention zones showing the location of the variants and components of the project, the valued environmental components described in accordance with paragraph 1 and the elements identified in accordance with paragraph 3;

(*b*) the location of the infrastructures, works and buildings connected with the activities described in accordance with paragraph 3 of section 7.

9. For the purposes of paragraph 8 of section 7, the list of the main anticipated impacts of the project must include, in particular,

(1) the project activities likely to affect the valued environmental components previously described in accordance with paragraph 1 of section 8;

(2) the main anticipated impacts for each phase of the project, including the cumulative impacts;

(3) the exposure of elements of the project and the territory to hazards, including climate hazards;

(4) the main contaminants likely to be emitted during each project phase, including, as regards greenhouse gases, their main emission sources, as well as their sinks and reservoirs;

(5) an appraisal of the ability to avoid or mitigate the main anticipated impacts of the project;

(6) an appraisal of the ability to avoid or mitigate the main risks from the hazards identified in accordance with paragraph 3.

10. In addition to the presentation of the potential issues that will be taken into account when developing the project referred to in subparagraph 2 of the first paragraph of section 31.2 of the Act, replaced by section 94 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment (2025, chapter 12), the notice of intention must include, in particular,

(1) the methodology and sources used to identify and describe those issues;

(2) a structured summary of the issues, specifying for each issue whether the process for its consideration has already been determined or is yet to be determined.

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11. In addition to the intended nature, scope and extent of the impact assessment statement referred to in subparagraph 2 of the first paragraph of section 31.2 of the Act, replaced by section 94 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment (2025, chapter 12), the notice of intention must include, in particular,

(1) the process planned for the drafting of the impact assessment statement for the project, including the manner in which the issues identified in accordance with subparagraph 2 of the first paragraph of section 31.2 of the Act will be assessed and taken into account in the project's development;

(2) a summary outline of the planned impact assessment statement, explaining the proposed structure;

(3) the level of technical detail planned for the description of the environment, the valued environmental components that may be affected by the project, and the project impacts;

(4) the level of technical detail planned for the description of the project activities and components to be dealt with in the environmental impact assessment statement and of the project-related activities that may influence the project's implementation or impacts;

(5) the methodological and analytic approach chosen for the analysis and consideration of the issues identified, project impacts, greenhouse gas emissions, and risks and climate hazards in the project's development and the selection of variants;

(6) the methodological and analytic approach chosen to characterize and delimit the wetlands and bodies of water likely to be affected by the project, including a demonstration that it is appropriate for that environment;

(7) the methodological and analytic approach chosen to avoid the wetlands and bodies of water identified in accordance with paragraph 6, to minimize the impact of the project on them and to identify the measures needed to compensate for the unavoidable residual impacts;

(8) a description of the suggested assessment zones, the reasons explaining their delimitation and a cartographic representation of the zones;

(9) a list of the existing data that will be used to assess the impacts on the environment and, where applicable, the process for updating data;

(10) a list of the assessments, inventories, characterizations, consultations, analysis and modelling completed or to be completed, their respective protocols and their implementation timeline;

(11) the suggested timeline for preparing and filing the impact assessment statement and the reasons for suggesting that timeline.

The proposed content of the impact assessment statement must also cover the terms governing the activities to inform and consult the public planned by the project proponent during the preparation of the environmental impact assessment statement, including those planned with the Native communities concerned, the expected timeline for the consultations and the manner in which the proponent plans to consider the observations and concerns received.

12. The project proponent must, when sending a copy of the notice of intention to a municipality in whose territory the project will be carried out in accordance with the second paragraph of 31.2 of the Act, replaced by section 94 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment (2025, chapter 12), send another copy to any band council having authority over the territory of an Indian reserve where the project will be carried out. The proponent must inform the Minister that the notice has been sent.

DIVISION IV
INFORMATION PERIOD ON THE NOTICE OF INTENTION

13. For the purposes of the first paragraph of section 31.3 of the Act, replaced by section 94 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment (2025, chapter 12), the time within which the Minister must request that the Bureau announce the beginning of the environmental assessment and organize an information period is 15 days from the date of receipt of the notice of intention.

14. The information period on the notice of intention organized by the Bureau lasts 30 days.

The Bureau announces the beginning of the information period in a notice published on its website and by any other means it considers appropriate in the circumstances.

15. For the purposes of the first paragraph of section 31.3.1 of the Act, replaced by section 94 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment (2025, chapter 12), the time during which the Bureau must send the Minister an account is 25 days from the end of the information period on the notice of intention.

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DIVISION V
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

16. For the purposes of the first paragraph of section 31.3.2 of the Act, replaced by section 94 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment (2025, chapter 12), the time within which the Minister must send the project proponent the directive provided for in that section is 30 days after the end of the information period on the notice of intention.

The Minister may not determine a period of more than 5 years between the date on which the directive is sent and the deadline for filing the environmental impact assessment statement with the Minister.

17. In addition to any other element determined in the directive sent by the Minister, an environmental impact assessment statement must contain the information and documents provided for in this Division.

18. Every environmental impact assessment statement must include the information and general documents provided for in section 6, with the necessary modifications, and indicate any updates to the information and documents since they were sent with the notice of intention.

It must also include a summary outlining in plain language the main elements of the environmental impact assessment statement referred to in section 19 and presenting the statement conclusions.

19. Every environmental impact assessment statement must, in particular to allow analysis of the environmental issues related to the project and the host environment, include

(1) a description of the project, its location and its variants;

(2) an identification of the valued environmental components on which the project may have an impact;

(3) an assessment of the impacts of the project on the valued environmental components;

(4) a presentation of the measures established to avoid, mitigate, compensate and supervise the impacts of the project on the environment and to adapt the project based on the risks identified, along with the mechanisms for monitoring the effectiveness of the measures;

(5) a presentation of the activities to inform and consult the public, including Native communities;

(6) the timeline for carrying out the project.

20. For the purposes of paragraph 1 of section 19, the description of the project, its location and its variants must include, in particular,

(1) a detailed description of the project and its components;

(2) a description of the assessment zone covered by the environmental impact assessment statement, including a georeferenced plan showing, in particular, the host environment, the valued environmental components of that environment and the project components;

(3) a detailed description of the project phases including, where applicable, planning, site layout, the construction of infrastructures, works and buildings, the installation of any devices or apparatus, operation, the termination of activities, site closure, post-closure management and any related activities;

(4) probable scenarios for the evolution of the project over time and their impact on the environment;

(5) the justification for the project and the objectives targeted;

(6) the alternative solutions considered for the project;

(7) a comparative analysis of the variants and the reasons justifying the choice of the variant selected, including a summary assessment of the potential impacts for each of the variants that were not selected;

(8) the legal constraints applicable in the territory described in accordance with paragraph 2, as well as the identification and description of the constraints that influence, limit or prevent land occupation or use and affect the location of the project and project activities, including the land uses resulting from any plan, program or other planning instrument prescribed by law;

(9) if an activity covered by the application is to be conducted in an agricultural zone established under the Act respecting the preservation of agricultural land and agricultural activities (chapter P-41.1) and requires authorization from the Commission de protection du territoire agricole du Québec, mention of that fact.

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21. For the purposes of paragraph 2 of section 19, the identification of the valued environmental components on which the project may have an impact must include, in particular,

(1) a list of the valued environmental components likely to be affected by the project;

(2) a description of the valued environmental components considered during the project's development;

(3) a list of the valued environmental components selected for the impact assessment statement and those that were not selected, with the reasons for the choice;

(4) the assessments and inventories completed, including a list of the data used, the methodological protocols applied and the limitations and uncertainties associated with the process;

(5) a demonstration that the assessments completed are representative of the host environment;

(6) the results of the surveys and inventories and the manner in which they were taken into account in the carrying out of the project.

22. For the purposes of paragraph 3 of section 19, the assessment of the impacts of the project on the valued environmental components must include, in particular,

(1) an assessment of the impacts of the project on the valued environmental components selected for the statement, for each project phase;

(2) an assessment of the project's cumulative impacts on the environment, in particular by reason of its interaction with other existing projects or activities, whether planned or foreseeable, and with natural processes;

(3) an appraisal of current and projected climate risks that will affect the project or its environment and the potential effects of climate change on the components of the environment, for each project phase.

23. For the purposes of paragraph 4 of section 19, the presentation of the measures established to avoid, mitigate, compensate and supervise the impacts of the project on the environment and to adapt the project based on the risks identified, along with the mechanisms for monitoring the effectiveness of the measures must include, in particular,

(1) a detailed description of the measures established to avoid, mitigate and compensate the impacts of the project on the valued environmental components;

(2) a demonstration that the avoidance and mitigation measures for the project's impacts minimize those impacts on the valued environmental components;

(3) a demonstration of the equivalency between the compensation measures proposed and the unavoidable residual impacts they address;

(4) the adaptation measures selected by reason of the potential effects of climate change on the components of the environment and the risks they generate, and on the basis for the analysis of the climate hazards that may affect the project;

(5) a program to supervise and monitor the impacts of the project on the valued environmental components, including performance indicators, information mechanisms and the planned corrective measures;

(6) a preliminary emergency measures plan;

(7) a summary of the avoidance, mitigation, adaptation, compensation, supervision and monitoring measures for the impacts of the project on the valued environmental components.

24. For the purposes of paragraph 5 of section 19, the presentation of the activities to inform and consult the public, including Native communities must include, in particular,

(1) the information and consultation activities conducted in preparing the impact assessment statement;

(2) the concerns and observations expressed during those activities;

(3) the manner in which the concerns and observations have been taken into account in the development of the project and the environmental impact assessment statement;

(4) a public participation plan for the various project phases, including a timeline for the activities planned and the terms governing the informing, consulting and involvement of the public.

25. For the purposes of paragraph 6 of section 19, the timeline for the carrying out of the project must include, in particular,

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(1) the detailed timeline for each project phase showing the periods during which certain activities may not be carried out;

(2) the reasons for the choice of the timeline.

DIVISION VI
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

§1. Admissibility of the environmental assessment

26. If the Minister considers the environmental impact assessment statement admissible, the Minister must inform the project proponent in writing and publish the communication in the public register as soon as possible.

27. As soon as possible after being informed that the environmental impact assessment statement is admissible, the project proponent must send a copy of the summary referred to in the second paragraph of section 18 to every municipality and band council having authority over the area of an Indian reserve where the project will be carried out. The project proponent must inform the Bureau and the Minister that the copies have been sent.

§2. Public information period on the project

28. For the purposes of the third paragraph of section 31.3.4 of the Act, replaced by section 94 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment (2025, chapter 12), the time within which the Minister must request that the Bureau organize an information period on the project is 60 days from the date on which the environmental impact assessment statement is published in the public register.

Where the Minister mandates the Bureau to hold a public hearing in accordance with the fourth paragraph of section 31.3.5 of the Act, amended by section 95 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment, the Minister must do so within 60 days from the date on which the environmental impact assessment statement is published in the public register.

29. The information period on the project organized by the Bureau lasts 30 days.

The Bureau must announce the beginning of the information period in a public notice published on its website and by any other means it considers appropriate in the circumstances.

30. The application that a person or a group of persons may make in accordance with the first paragraph of section 31.3.5 of the Act, amended by section 95 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment (2025, chapter 12), must include the following information:

(1) the applicant's name and place of residence or, if the applicant is a group of persons, that of their representative;

(2) the name of the project for which the application is made;

(3) the applicant's interest in the project or the environment affected by the project;

(4) the reasons for which the applicant considers that it is pertinent to hold a public consultation or mediation.

31. Within 5 days after the end of the information period on the project, the Minister must send the Bureau a copy of each application made under the first paragraph of section 31.3.5 of the Act, amended by section 95 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment (2025, chapter 12), that complies with section 30.

The Minister must publish the applications in the public register within 15 days after the beginning of the public consultation or mediation mandate given to the Bureau by the Minister under the third or fourth paragraph of section 31.3.5 of the Act, amended by section 95 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment (2025, chapter 12), or within 90 days after the end of the information period on the project, whichever occurs first.

32. For the purposes of the first paragraph of section 31.3.4.1 of the Act, enacted by section 94 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment (2025, chapter 12), the time during which the Bureau must send the Minister an account is 20 days from the end of the information period on the project.

33. For the purposes of the second paragraph of section 31.3.5 of the Act, amended by section 95 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment (2025, chapter 12), the time during which the Bureau must send its recommendation to the Minister is 20 days from the end of the information period on the project. However, the Bureau may not send its recommendation before receiving the applications in accordance with section 31.

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§3. Mandate given to the Bureau

34. The Minister must publish in the public register every mandate for a public hearing, targeted consultation or mediation given to the Bureau under the third or fourth paragraph of section 31.3.5 of the Act, amended by section 95 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment (2025, chapter 12), as soon as possible after it is given.

35. The Bureau must announce in a notice published on its website and by any other means it considers appropriate in the circumstances every mandate given to the Bureau by the Minister under the third or fourth paragraph of section 31.3.5 of the Act, amended by section 95 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment (2025, chapter 12).

36. The time available to the Bureau to work on the mandates given to it and report to the Minister, in accordance with section 31.3.7 of the Act, replaced by section 96 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment (2025, chapter 12), is

(1) 4 months, for a public hearing;

(2) 3 months, for a targeted consultation;

(3) 2 months, for a mediation.

§4. Recommendation of the Minister

37. The Minister has 9 months, from the date on which the Minister finds the environmental impact assessment statement admissible in accordance with section 31.3.4 of the Act, replaced by section 94 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment (2025, chapter 12), to make a recommendation to the Government concerning the project.

The time limit set in the first paragraph excludes

(1) any period during which the Minister is awaiting a response from the project proponent following an application made under section 31.4 of the Act;

(2) a period of 2 months following the publication in the public register of a mandate given by the Minister to the Bureau under the third or fourth paragraph of section 31.3.5 of the Act, amended by section 95 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment, if the mandate concerns a public hearing or targeted consultation.

(3) any extension of the time limit, granted by the Minister under the fourth paragraph of section 31.9 of the Act, to allow the Bureau to complete a mandate given by the Minister and file a report.

DIVISION VII
REIMBURSEMENT, AMENDMENT AND TRANSFER

38. An application for the reimbursement of all or part of a financial contribution paid as compensation under the first, second or third paragraph of section 31.5.1 of the Act must be filed not more than 2 years after the end of the work covered by the compensation measure required.

The application must include the following information:

(1) an assessment signed by a person referred to in subparagraph 1 of the first paragraph of section 46.0.3 of the Act showing that the actual adverse effects are less than those covered by the compensation measure and including a comparison of the expected impacts with those actually caused, along with a georeferenced plan showing the expected and actual adverse effects;

(2) the amount requested as a reimbursement of the compensation, along with the calculation used to establish it.

The reimbursement is made without interest.

39. The documents and information that an authorization holder must provide in accordance with the fourth paragraph of section 31.7 of the Act, to assess the admissibility of the authorization holder's application for an amendment are the following:

(1) the number and date of issue of the authorization to be amended;

(2) the history of the project, including its state of progress;

(3) a description of the amendment requested to the authorized project or the work, constructions, works or other project activities that are incompatible with the authorization for the project;

(4) the reasons for the amendment requested, including a comparison with the project already authorized;

(5) a georeferenced plan showing the modified project components compared to those initially authorized;

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(6) the changes to the biophysical and human host environments for the project since it was authorized, where applicable;

(7) an updated account of the natural environment lost and the associated compensation measures, where applicable;

(8) an update to the following information and documents, taking into account the amendment requested and allowing an assessment of the impacts:

(*a*) an estimate of the contaminant emissions during each project phase;

(*b*) the information and documents provided for in paragraphs 8 to 11 of section 20;

(*c*) the assessments and inventories provided for in paragraph 4 of section 21, based on the most recent scientific requirements;

(*d*) the information and documents provided for in sections 22 to 24;

(*e*) any other information in the environmental impact assessment statement submitted to the Minister for the project as authorized.

If information based on estimated data has been submitted to the Minister by the authorization holder, the authorization holder must submit the most recent actual data for that information collected during the carrying out of the project covered by the application for an amendment to the authorization.

40. The documents and information the authorization holder must provide in accordance with the first paragraph of section 31.7.0.1 of the Act in order to assess the admissibility of the authorization holder's application to modify the period of validity are as follows:

(1) the number and date of issue of the authorization to be amended;

(2) the modification of the period of validity requested;

(3) the history of the project, including its state of progress;

(4) the reason for the modification of the period of validity requested;

(5) an update to the timeline for carrying out the project;

(6) the changes to the biophysical and human host environments for the project since it was authorized, where applicable;

(7) an updated account of the natural environment lost and the associated compensation measures, where applicable;

(8) an update to the following information and documents, taking into account the modification requested and allowing an assessment of the impacts:

(*a*) an estimate of the contaminant emissions during each project phase;

(*b*) the information provided for in sections 19 to 25;

(*c*) any other information in the environmental impact assessment statement submitted to the Minister for the project as authorized.

If information based on estimated data has been submitted to the Minister by the authorization holder, the authorization holder must submit the most recent actual data for that information collected during the carrying out of the project covered by the application for the modification of the period of validity of the authorization.

41. The notice of transfer provided for in section 31.7.5 of the Act must contain the following information and documents:

(1) the number and date of issue of the authorization the holder wishes to transfer in whole or in part;

(2) the name of each transferee and the information needed to identify that transferee;

(3) the declaration of antecedents of each transferee, with the contents provided for in section 43, except if the transferee is a legal person in the public interest;

(4) where applicable, an attestation by the transferee that the transferee holds the security or liability insurance required for the carrying out of the project covered by the authorization;

(5) an attestation of the authorization holder and every transferee that all the information and documents provided are complete and accurate;

(6) in the case of a partial transfer, the identification of the activities for which the authorization is partially transferred, including the conditions, restrictions and prohibitions that apply, and of the transferee responsible for that part of the project following the transfer.

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DIVISION VIII
PUBLIC REGISTER

42. The public register must contain, in addition to the information and documents listed in section 118.5.0.1 of the Act, the following documents and information:

(1) the written communication sent by the Minister to the project proponent in accordance with section 26;

(2) the applications for a public consultation or mediation filed with the Minister under the first paragraph of section 31.3.5 of the Act, amended by section 95 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment (2025, chapter 12);

(3) the mandates given to the Bureau by the Minister under the third and fourth paragraphs of section 31.3.5 of the Act, amended by section 95 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment;

(4) the environmental analysis reports produced by the Minister in support of the Minister's recommendation under sections 31.7 or 31.7.0.1 of the Act;

(5) the notices sent to the Minister by a government department or body as part of the assessment and review procedure for project impacts;

(6) the decisions made by the Minister under section 31.4.1 of the Act;

(7) the answers and comments submitted by the proponent of a project in response to the questions and concerns raised by a Native community, if considered non-confidential by that community;

(8) the information and documents made public under a mandate given to the Bureau under section 31.3.5 of the Act, as well as the resulting reports by the Bureau.

DIVISION IX
DECLARATION OF ANTECEDENTS

43. Every declaration of antecedents must include the following information:

(1) the information needed to identify the project proponent, authorization holder or transferee and, where applicable, their representative;

(2) a description of any situation referred to in subparagraphs 1 to 3 and subparagraph 10 of the first paragraph of section 32 and sections 33 and 34 of the Act respecting certain measures enabling the enforcement of environmental and dam safety legislation (chapter M-11.6) that applies to the project proponent, authorization holder or transferee or, in the case of a legal person, one of its directors, officers or shareholders within the meaning of the Act, along with the information needed to identify them;

(3) a declaration by the project proponent, authorization holder or transferee attesting that the information and documents provided are accurate and complete.

The declaration must be updated by the person who produced it and filed with the Minister as soon as possible after

(1) a change occurs in the situation previously declared in accordance with subparagraph 2 of the first paragraph;

(2) a new situation arises to which subparagraphs 1 to 3 and subparagraph 10 of the first paragraph of section 32 and sections 33 and 34 of the Act respecting certain measures enabling the enforcement of environmental and dam safety legislation apply.".

2. Schedules 2 and 3 are struck out.

TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

3. For the purposes of the second paragraph of section 31.1.1 of the Environment Quality Act (chapter Q-2), until the date of coming into force of section 118.5 of that Act, replaced by section 188 of the Act to amend the Environment Quality Act to modernize the environmental authorization scheme and to amend other legislative provisions, in particular to reform the governance of the Green Fund (2017, chapter 4) and amended by section 137 of the Act mainly to reinforce the enforcement of environmental and dam safety legislation, to ensure the responsible management of pesticides and to implement certain measures of the 2030 Plan for a Green Economy concerning zero emission vehicles (2022, chapter 8), the Minister must inform the applicant of an intention to recommend that the Government make a project subject to the environmental impact assessment and review procedure within 3 months after confirmation by the Minister that the applicant's application for authorization under section 22 of the Environment Quality Act is admissible.

4. A project proponent who, before 30 November 2026, has filed a project notice with the Minister in accordance with section 31.2 of the Environment Quality Act (chapter Q-2), as it reads on that date, but has not yet received the Minister's directive on 1 December 2026, must file a notice of intention with the Minister in accordance

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with section 31.2 of the Act, replaced by section 94 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment (2025, chapter 12), for the project to be assessed.

No fee is payable for the new notice.

5. A project proponent who, on 30 November 2026, has been sent a directive by the Minister concerning the proponent's project in accordance with section 31.3 of the Environment Quality Act (chapter Q-2), as it reads on that date, but who, on 1 December 2026, has not yet filed an environmental impact assessment statement, must send the Minister the environmental impact assessment statement not later than 1 September 2027, failing which the environmental impact assessment and review procedure for the project is terminated.

Section 7 of this Regulation applies to the processing of that environmental impact assessment statement with the necessary modifications.

6. Despite section 5, the project proponent may instead send the Minister an update to the project notice including the information and documents provided for in Division III of the Regulation respecting the environmental impact assessment and review of certain projects (chapter Q-2, r. 23.1), replaced by section 1 of this Regulation, that were not addressed in the initial project notice. In that case, the project proponent must notify the Minister in writing of the project proponent's intention not later than 1 September 2027, failing which the environmental impact assessment and review procedure for the project is terminated.

The update must be sent to the Minister not later than 1 June 2028, failing which the environmental impact assessment and review procedure for the project is terminated.

No fee is payable for the update.

As soon as possible after receipt, the Minister must publish the notice and the update in the register of environmental assessments created under section 118.5.0.1 of the Environment Quality Act (Chapter Q-2).

Sections 16 to 43 of the Regulation respecting the environmental impact assessment and review of certain projects, enacted by section 1 of this Regulation, then apply, subject to the fact that the directive must be updated to take into account the update to the project notice, within 90 days from the publication of the latter update in the register.

7. The Minister must send written notice to every project proponent whose environmental impact assessment statement received before 1 December 2026 the Minister considers admissible but has not yet informed the project proponent thereof.

As soon as possible, the Minister publishes the notice in the register of environmental assessments created under section 118.5.0.1 of the Environment Quality Act (chapter Q-2) and asks the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement to announce the beginning of the environmental assessment and organize an information period on the project in accordance with the third paragraph of section 31.3.4 of the Environment Quality Act, replaced by section 94 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment (2025, chapter 12). Sections 29 to 43 of the Regulation respecting the environmental impact assessment and review of certain projects, (chapter Q-2, r. 23.1), enacted by section 1 of this Regulation, apply in such a case, except the first paragraph of section 37 of the Regulation respecting the environmental impact assessment and review of certain projects, which is replaced by the first or second paragraph, as the case may be, of section 19 of the Regulation, as it reads on 30 November 2026. Sections 12 and 13 of the Regulation, as they read on that date, apply with the necessary modifications.

If the Minister considers that the environmental impact assessment statement does not satisfactorily deal with the subjects it is required to address, or does not satisfactorily take into account the observations and issues raised at the consultation provided for in section 31.3.1 of the Act, as it reads on 30 November 2026, the Minister submits observations to the project proponent and indicates the questions the project proponent must answer, within the time and on the conditions set by the Minister, in the environmental impact assessment statement in order for it to be admissible.

If the Minister then considers the environmental impact assessment statement admissible, the first and second paragraphs of this section apply. If the Minister considers the environmental impact assessment statement inadmissible, the Minister may terminate the environmental assessment and review procedure or require the project proponent to return to a prior stage in accordance with section 31.4.1 of the Environment Quality Act, enacted by section 98 of the Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment.

8. Despite the first paragraph of section 37 of the Regulation respecting the environmental impact assessment and review of certain projects (chapter Q-2, r. 23.1),

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enacted by section 1 of this Regulation, the time limit within which the Minister must make a recommendation to the Government in respect of a project for which the environmental impact assessment statement was submitted to the Minister before 23 March 2018 is established in accordance with section 16.1 of the Regulation respecting environmental impact assessment and review (chapter Q-2, r. 23), as it reads on 22 March 2018, and the time limit for a project for which the environmental impact assessment statement the Minister considers admissible not later than 1 December 2026 is established in accordance with either the first or the second paragraph of section 19 of the Regulation respecting the environmental impact assessment and review of certain projects, as it reads on 30 November 2026.

9. Despite the coming into force of this Regulation, the references to the Regulation respecting the environmental impact assessment and review of certain projects (chapter Q-2, r. 23.1) in the Regulation respecting the environmental impact assessment and review applicable to a part of the northeastern Québec region (chapter Q-2, r. 24) are references to the Regulation respecting the environmental impact assessment and review of certain projects, as it reads on 30 November 2026.

OTHER AMENDING PROVISIONS

10. Section 37 of the Regulation respecting the regulatory scheme applying to activities on the basis of their environmental impact (chapter Q-2, r. 17.1) is amended by striking out "or 31.7.5" in the part preceding paragraph 1.

11. Section 7 of the Regulation respecting a cap-and-trade system for greenhouse gas emission allowances (chapter Q-2, r. 46.1) is amended by replacing "31.1" in subparagraph a of subparagraph 4.2 of the first paragraph by "31.3.2".

12. Section 7.2 of the said Regulation is amended by replacing "31.3" in subparagraph 1 of the third paragraph by "31.3.2".

FINAL PROVISION

13. This Regulation comes into force on 1 December 2026.

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